

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 18 August 1994

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Employment trend at highest recorded level

The provisional trend estimate of employment increased to 7,919,400 in July 1994, the highest level recorded by the ABS Labour Force Survey. Trend estimates of persons employed full time have been increasing since October 1992 and in July 1994 stood at 6,018,700. The trend in unemployment decreased for the tenth successive month and the July figure of 847,200 was the lowest since August 1991. In July 1994, the trend estimate of the unemployment rate fell to 9.7 per cent, 1.4 percentage points lower than the October to December 1992 peak of 11.1 per cent. The trend estimate of the participation rate increased to 62.9 per cent after remaining at 62.8 per cent for the previous four months.

Employment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons for July 1994 was 7,972,200, an increase of 90,200 since June 1994. Full-time employment rose by 22,700 to 6,034,700 mainly due to an increase of 21,400 in the number of males employed full time. Part-time employment increased by 67,600 to 1,937,500, with increases of 23,700 and 43,900, respectively in the number of males and females employed part time.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

| | <i>Employed</i> | | | | Unemployment rate — per cent — | Participation rate | |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | Full-time workers | Part-time workers | Total | Unemployed | | | |
| | — '000 — | | | | | | |
| 1993 | | | | | | | |
| November | 5 924.2 | 1 847.1 | 7 771.3 | 957.7 | 11.0 | 63.1 | |
| December | 5 941.5 | 1 850.5 | 7 792.0 | 921.5 | 10.6 | 62.9 | |
| 1994 | | | | | | | |
| January | 5 920.5 | 1 884.7 | 7 805.3 | 917.7 | 10.5 | 62.9 | |
| February | 5 960.3 | 1 859.4 | 7 819.7 | 913.9 | 10.5 | 62.9 | |
| March | 5 951.4 | 1 875.3 | 7 826.8 | 902.7 | 10.3 | 62.9 | |
| April | 5 960.2 | 1 872.3 | 7 832.5 | 875.1 | 10.1 | 62.6 | |
| May | 5 981.7 | 1 881.3 | 7 863.0 | 851.8 | 9.8 | 62.6 | |
| June | 6 012.1 | 1 869.9 | 7 882.0 | 877.7 | 10.0 | 62.9 | |
| July | 6 034.7 | 1 937.5 | 7 972.2 | 833.9 | 9.5 | 63.2 | |

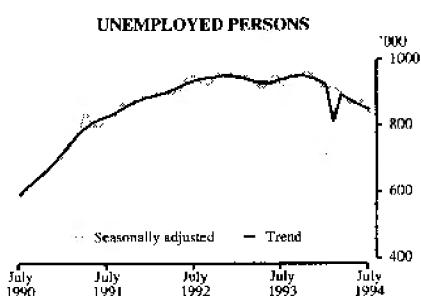
Unemployment

In July 1994, the seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons decreased by 43,700 and now stands at 833,900. Male unemployment fell by 44,100 to 479,600 mainly due to a fall of 40,200 in the number of males seeking full-time work. In July 1994, female unemployment was relatively steady at 354,300.

Unemployment rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 9.5 per cent in July 1994. For males, the unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points to 9.5 per cent, and for females, the unemployment rate fell by 0.1 percentage points to 9.4 per cent.

Continued ...

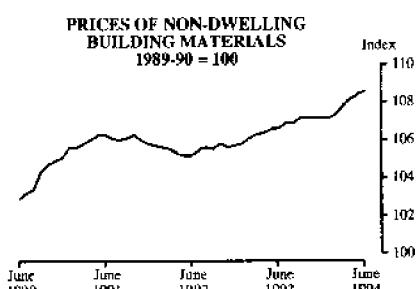


Participation rate

The July 1994 seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 63.2 per cent. The participation rate for males decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 73.6 per cent, while for females, the participation rate increased by 0.6 percentage points and now stands at 53.0 per cent.

For further information, order the publication Labour Force, Australia (6202.0), or contact Sylvia Sajler on (06) 252 6525.

Building materials prices up

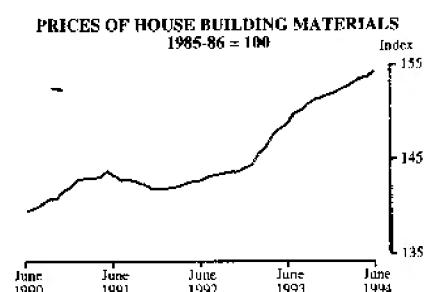


From May 1994 to June 1994 prices of materials used in the construction of houses increased by 0.3 per cent while prices of materials used in other building increased by 0.2 per cent.

From June 1993 to June 1994 prices of materials used in house building increased by 3.7 per cent while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 1.9 per cent.

Contributing most to the overall increases for house building in June were higher prices in Sydney for clay bricks (1.1%). Copper-based products (copper pipe and mains cable) were the main contributors to the overall increase in other building, especially in Sydney and Melbourne.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JUNE 1994
Percentage change



| City | House building | | Other than house building | |
|--|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
| Sydney | 0.7 | 3.3 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| Melbourne | 0.3 | 4.5 | 0.4 | 1.9 |
| Brisbane | 0.1 | 2.6 | 0.2 | 1.2 |
| Adelaide | -0.1 | 6.1 | -0.3 | 2.2 |
| Perth | 0.4 | 2.6 | 0.7 | 2.1 |
| Hobart | 0.5 | 3.7 | 0.5 | 1.1 |
| Weighted average of six State capitals | 0.3 | 3.7 | 0.2 | 1.9 |
| Canberra | 0.0 | 3.6 | 0.4 | 1.3 |

For further information, order the publications Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0) and Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6407.0), or contact Robert Adams (06) 252 6198.

Post-school sector wins bulk of rise in education funding

Total government and private outlays on education in Australia rose by 5.9 per cent to \$23,718 million in 1992-93, the great bulk of the total (\$21,465 million) coming from the government sector.

Total outlays by the Commonwealth Government were up 9.7 per cent, largely as a result of higher personal benefit payments to students and increased grants to the States and Territories. Total outlays by State/Territory and local government (the latter contributes a growing but still tiny proportion of education spending) rose by 2.1 per cent in the year.

The graph at left shows how final consumption expenditure dominated government spending, accounting for almost 69 per cent of all government outlays on education.

Some aspects of the 1992-93 figures show that the steady trend towards greater spending on tertiary education since 1987-88 continued into the latest year. While 55 per cent of government outlays went to primary and secondary schooling and 35 per cent to tertiary education, spending on the latter has increased by 62.7 per cent in the six years to 1992-93 while spending on school education has risen by just 40.7 per cent.

This shift in emphasis also partly explains why outlays by the Commonwealth have risen more sharply than those of the States and Territories in recent years (see graph at left). The Commonwealth provided more than 93 per cent of all government funding for university education, and as a result of substantial increases in its contributions to TAFE funding since 1989-90, provided almost 30 per cent of funding to that sector in 1992-93.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT OUTLAYS ON EDUCATION

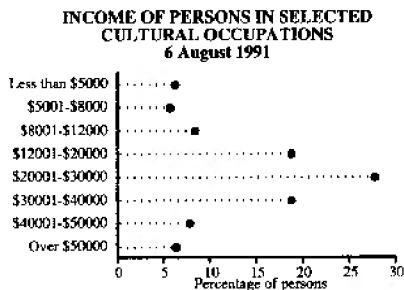
| Government purpose | 1987-88 | 1988-89 | 1989-90 | 1990-91 | 1991-92 | 1992-93 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| — \$ million — | | | | | | |
| Primary & secondary | 2 240 | 2 529 | 2 508 | 2 792 | 3 185 | 3 428 |
| Tertiary | 3 452 | 3 495 | 3 938 | 4 455 | 4 956 | 5 490 |
| University | 2 963 | 3 108 | 3 493 | 3 983 | 4 430 | 4 820 |
| TAFE | 429 | 370 | 433 | 463 | 515 | 664 |
| Other tertiary | 59 | 17 | 12 | 8 | 10 | 7 |
| Pre-school & other special | 89 | 90 | 103 | 146 | 137 | 146 |
| Transportation of students | 7 | 6 | — | — | — | — |
| Other education | 64 | 85 | 125 | 159 | 165 | 195 |
| <i>Total outlays on education</i> | <i>5 852</i> | <i>6 205</i> | <i>6 674</i> | <i>7 552</i> | <i>8 442</i> | <i>9 259</i> |
| — per cent — | | | | | | |
| As a percentage of total outlays | 7.0 | 7.1 | 6.7 | 7.2 | 7.7 | 8.0 |

The share of Australia's total economic resources going to education remained constant in 1992-93 at 5.8 per cent of Gross Domestic Product. This of course reflects the fact that GDP itself had commenced growth in that financial year after a period of decline, thus offsetting the growth in education outlays in absolute terms. Within that total, a slightly higher proportion of GDP went to tertiary education and a slightly lower proportion to primary and secondary schooling.

For further information, order the publication Expenditure on Education, Australia (5510.0), or contact Elvie Yates on (06) 252 5834 or Jon Wade on (06) 252 5069.

Workers at the cultural coalface

There were just under 120,000 people working in occupations broadly identifiable as 'cultural' on the night of the 1991 Census. A further 63,000 were working in non-cultural jobs within culture-oriented industries.



In these cultural occupations, women are more strongly represented than they are in the total workforce (48.1% against 42.6%) and part-time work is more prevalent. Sixty-three per cent of people in cultural jobs worked 35 hours or more in the week before the Census compared with 69 per cent of all employees, while 14.2 per cent of the culture workforce worked between one and 15 hours compared with 9.5 per cent of the total workforce.

These findings are taken from the first publication to present occupation data at a detailed level for cultural activities. The data was assembled from the Census results at the request of the Cultural Ministers Council, whose advisers also assisted the ABS in reaching suitable definitions of 'cultural occupations' and 'culture-oriented industries'.

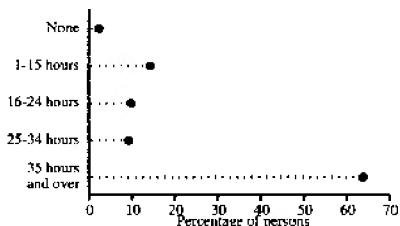
The process of defining these terms presented some difficult and interesting questions at the margins. For example, architects were included as a cultural occupation because it was felt that, while many architects undoubtedly perform routine supervisory work, the majority would be engaged in creative design work. On the other hand, weavers were excluded on the basis that the majority of people describing themselves as weavers were likely to be working in factories on pre-set designs.

The table below shows the significant increases in the numbers of people in some of the major cultural occupation groupings between the 1986 and 1991 Censuses. Overall, there was a 12 per cent increase in the number of people whose main job was in a cultural occupation — a 6.6 per cent increase for males and a 23.2 per cent increase for females.

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATION GROUPS

| <i>Unit group</i> | 1986 | | | 1991 | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Males</i> | <i>Females</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Architects incl. landscape professionals | 8 456 | 968 | 9 424 | 7 786 | 1 228 | 9 014 |
| Painters, sculptors & related professionals | 1 262 | 854 | 2 116 | 1 528 | 1 379 | 2 907 |
| Photographers | 4 164 | 1 052 | 5 216 | 3 937 | 1 308 | 5 245 |
| Designers & illustrators | 6 923 | 6 483 | 13 406 | 9 194 | 8 099 | 17 293 |
| Journalists | 6 166 | 3 740 | 9 906 | 5 974 | 4 343 | 10 317 |
| Authors & related professionals | 970 | 936 | 1 906 | 1 395 | 1 454 | 2 849 |
| Film, TV & stage directors | 2 444 | 823 | 3 267 | 2 782 | 1 018 | 3 800 |
| Dancers & choreographers | 216 | 463 | 679 | 270 | 553 | 823 |
| Musicians, composers & related professionals | 4 648 | 1 492 | 6 140 | 5 169 | 1 820 | 6 989 |
| Actors & related professionals | 1 295 | 830 | 2 125 | 1 312 | 939 | 2 251 |
| Announcers | 1 616 | 404 | 2 020 | 1 739 | 430 | 2 169 |
| Performing arts support workers | 4 898 | 1 486 | 6 384 | 4 325 | 1 434 | 5 759 |
| Craftworkers | 1 839 | 1 853 | 3 692 | 2 454 | 2 347 | 4 801 |
| <i>Total</i> | 44 897 | 21 384 | 66 281 | 47 865 | 26 352 | 74 217 |

HOURS WORKED BY PERSONS IN SELECTED CULTURAL OCCUPATIONS
6 August 1991

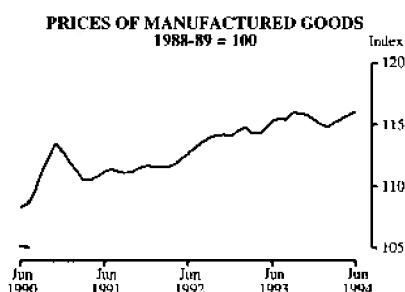


It was also found that cultural occupations were over-represented at both the highest and lowest levels of income in the workforce. For example, 19.9 per cent of people in cultural jobs earned less than \$12,000 a year compared with 18.6 per cent of the total workforce, while 14.3 per cent of cultural workers, compared with 11.5 per cent of all workers, earned more than \$40,000 a year.

New South Wales, Victoria, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory all enjoyed a slight over-representation of cultural workers at the time of the last Census. New South Wales was the usual place of residence for 32.5 per cent of all employed people, but for 36 per cent of all cultural workers.

For further information, order the publication Employment in Selected Culture/Leisure Occupations, Australia (6273.0), or contact Jeff Carey on (08) 237 7455.

Metal products push prices of manufactured goods up again



The Price Index of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry increased by 0.3 per cent in June 1994 (the fourth consecutive increase of this magnitude).

The increase in June was largely due to higher world prices for a range of base metals with copper increasing 13.9 per cent; silver, lead and zinc increasing 6.4 per cent and nickel increasing 5.9 per cent. Small price increases were also recorded for about one-third of the other items in the index.

These increases were offset by small price decreases for about 20 per cent of the items in the index.

The Manufacturing Division index increased by 0.7 per cent between June 1993 and June 1994.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JUNE 1994
Percentage change

| Manufacturing sector | From previous month | From corresponding month of previous year |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Food, beverages and tobacco | -0.2 | 1.8 |
| Clothing and footwear | 0.3 | 1.0 |
| Chemical products | 0.4 | -0.1 |
| Petroleum products | 0.9 | -12.4 |
| Basic metal products | 1.3 | 0.2 |
| Fabricated metal products | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Transport equipment | 0.2 | 2.0 |
| Other industrial machinery | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| <i>Total manufacturing</i> | 0.3 | 0.7 |

Latest trends in tourism

The ABS has released the March quarter 1994 issue of *Tourism Indicators, Australia*, which brings together in one publication a range of the latest statistics covering various aspects of tourism.

Room nights demand

The trend in demand for rooms in hotels, motels and guest houses rose by more than 19 per cent between the middle of 1990 and March quarter 1994, according to a trend analysis of room nights in these establishments. At the same time the trend in takings from accommodation rose by 27 per cent. Consequently, average takings per room night increased from \$78 to almost \$85. In constant price terms, however, average takings dropped by 10 per cent over the four year period.

During this period Queensland experienced the highest growth in demand, with room nights occupied increasing by 35 per cent. The Northern Territory also showed strong growth, increasing by 30 per cent. Other States, with the exception of South Australia, which showed a fall, experienced growth of between 10 and 20 per cent.

Average takings per room

Over the four years to March 1994 most States and Territories showed an increase in average takings per room night occupied. However, in constant price terms, only South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania experienced an increase.

Queensland had the highest average takings per room night occupied, with an average of around \$87 in the March quarter 1994. New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory averaged around \$85 per room night occupied. The lowest average takings were in Tasmania with a return of \$71 per room night. Average takings reflect a number of factors, including occupancy, tariffs and the composition of the type of accommodation available.

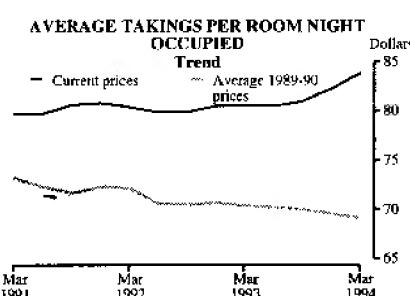
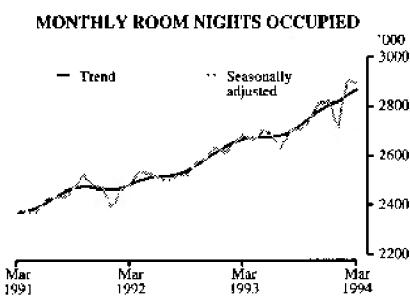
Supply of rooms

During the twelve months ended March 1994, the supply of rooms in hotels, motels and guest houses remained stable at around 166,200 despite a net reduction in the number of establishments. However, the composition of the grades of rooms changed. During the year there was a shift towards 3 star and 4 star grade rooms at the expense of all other categories, particularly 1 star rooms.

Increased demand during the year resulted in the average nightly number of rooms occupied per establishment increasing, by more than 8 per cent, to 19.3 rooms. All star grade categories enjoyed an increase with the 1 star category experiencing the highest relative improvement.

International visitors

The publication also shows that, during the March quarter 1994, the number of visitors to Australia was 862,200. This was an increase of 16 per cent over the corresponding period last year. These visitors spent a total 26.4 million days in the country.



While visitors from Japan made up the largest proportion (22%) of all visitors, they accounted for only 10 per cent of the total number of days spent in the country. The most days were spent by visitors from the United Kingdom (17%).

'Holiday' visitors spent 9.8 million days (37%) in the country, while those 'Visiting relatives' spent 5.2 million days (20%). Business visitors spent 1.4 million days (5%) in the country.

During the March quarter 1994, 46 per cent of visitors arrived through Sydney's Kingsford Smith airport. The next most popular entry point was Eagle Farm in Brisbane, which was the gateway for 18 per cent of visitors. For Japanese visitors, however, Cairns was the second most popular arrival point, with 27 per cent choosing this gateway.

A discussion of planned changes to the classifications used for international tourism statistics is also included in the publication. These changes will make Australian statistics comparable with most overseas countries by conforming more closely with World Tourism Organisation standards. In addition, the quality of 'Holiday' data will improve and provide a more accurate reflection of those international visitors requiring accommodation services.

Accommodation composition by star grading

An analysis of the composition of hotel, motel and guest house accommodation by star grading shows changes in the level and pattern of demand over the last five years. Over the period, 2, 3, 4 and 5 star categories increased in importance at the expense of the 1 star and ungraded categories. The 4 star category experienced the greatest relative increase, although it still accounts for a small proportion of the total. Collectively, the 2 and 3 star establishments accounted for 78 per cent of the total in 1994 compared with 73 per cent in 1989.

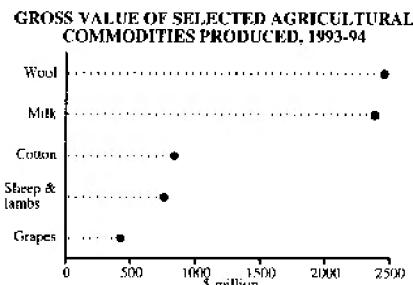
Building activity — hotels completed

The value of building work completed on hotels, motels and guest houses during 1992-93 was \$661.7 million and continues to show a steady decline from the high of \$1,340.6 million recorded in 1989-90. This decline is reflected across all States.

International standards for tourism statistics

The publication also contains a discussion on international standards, definitions and classifications for tourism statistics. Tourism researchers have long been hampered by a lack of consistent standards. The lack of consistency between statistical collections reduces the potential value of the information available. The standards discussed in the article, if applied consistently, would enable data from different collections to be linked and compared thus increasing the value of the data above the aggregate value of the different collections.

Agricultural returns up despite setback for wool growers



The gross value of agricultural commodities produced in Australia in 1993-94 has been estimated at \$22,699.8 million, an increase of 3.9 per cent over the previous financial year.

The gross value of crops rose by 4.8 per cent to \$11,105 million, the gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals increased by 6.2 per cent to \$6,413.7 million and the gross value of livestock products fell by 0.7 per cent to \$5,167.7 million.

Among the main individual commodities, the most significant movements in production value for the year were in:

- cotton, up 19.3 per cent to \$842.1 million;
- wool, down 4.3 per cent to \$2,458.5 million;
- grapes, up 12.3 per cent to \$423.9 million;
- milk, up 3.2 per cent to \$2,388 million; and
- sheep and lamb slaughterings, up 11.6 per cent to \$759.7 million.

The value of cattle and calf slaughterings increased by 5.4 per cent to \$4,045.9 million, while for chicken slaughterings the rise was 7.8 per cent to \$898.2 million.

For further information, order the publication Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary (7501.0), or contact Lorraine North on (06) 252 5347.

Finance in brief ...

Personal finance

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for June 1994 was \$2,152.5 million, a decrease of \$54.1 million (2.5%) on May 1994 but an increase of \$403.5 million (23.1%) on June 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments for June 1994 were \$2,141.7 million, an increase of \$80.4 million (3.6%) on May 1994 and an increase of \$380.3 million (21.6%) on June 1993.

Commercial finance

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for June 1994 was \$8,832.5 million, an increase of \$356.7 million (4.2%) on May 1994 and an increase of \$1,371.0 million (18.4%) on June 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, commercial finance commitments for June 1994 were \$9,003.5 million, an increase of \$770.3 million (9.4%) on May 1994 and an increase of \$844.3 million (10.4%) on June 1993.

Lease finance

The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for June 1994 was \$584.0 million, an increase of \$29.7 million (5.4%) on May 1994 and an increase of \$141.9 million (32.1%) on June 1993. Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments for June 1994 were \$643.0 million, an increase of \$113.3 million (21.4%) on May 1994 and an increase of \$131.1 million (25.6%) on June 1993.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Michael Sharpe on (02) 268 4788.

This week in brief ...

Industrial disputes

In May 1994 there were 51 disputes involving 16,200 employees and the loss of 23,400 working days. This represents a 31 per cent increase in the number of disputes from the previous month but a 34 per cent decrease in the number of employees involved and a 9 per cent decrease in the working days lost.

The manufacturing (other than metal products, machinery and equipment) industry reported 7,000 working days lost. This industry accounted for 30 per cent of total working days lost in Australia during the month. Within this industry, the meat products manufacturing industry reported 5,000 working days lost during the month.

In the 12 months ended May 1994, there were 548 disputes reported involving 348,200 employees and the loss of 552,400 working days. This is a 66 per cent decrease in total employees involved from the 12 months ended May 1993 and a 47 per cent decrease in the number of working days lost in the same period.

Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia, May 1994 (6321.0).

Rates of pay

Over the 12 months to June 1994, the weekly award rates of pay index for full-time adult employees rose by 1.1 per cent. For full-time adult males and full-time adult females the indexes rose by 1.1 per cent and 1.2 per cent, respectively.

The largest movements over the period for full-time adult females and males occurred in the recreation, personal and other services industry (2.6% and 2.2%, respectively), and in the wholesale and retail trade industry (2.4% and 2.5%, respectively).

Source: Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia, June 1994 (6312.0).

Private capital expenditure

In seasonally adjusted 1989-90 price terms, expenditure decreased by 3 per cent in the March quarter 1994. Expenditure on buildings and structures decreased by 1 per cent and expenditure on equipment, plant and machinery decreased by 5 per cent.

The latest estimate of expected new capital expenditure for 1993-94 is \$27,684 million. This represents a marginal increase over the December quarter survey expectation for 1993-94.

Source: Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1995, March Quarter 1994 Survey (5626.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- through its bookshops
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Editor

Rad Leovic
(06) 252 6104

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Expected releases over the fortnight to 30 August

- 18** Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, June 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)
- 19** Company Profits, Australia, June Quarter 1994 (5651.0; \$11.00)
- 20** Average Weekly Earnings, States and Australia, May 1994 (6302.0; \$13.00)
- 21** Export Price Index, Australia, June 1994 (6405.0; \$8.50)
- 22** Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, June 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)
- 23** Import Price Index, Australia, June 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)
- 24** Stocks, Manufacturers' Sales June Quarter 1994 and Expected Sales to December 1995, Australia (5629.0; \$11.00)
- 25** Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, July 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- 26** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1995, June Quarter 1994, Preliminary (5625.0; \$11.00)
- 27** Manufacturing Production, Australia, July 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)
- 28** Balance of Payments, Australia, June Quarter 1994 (5302.0; \$21.50)
- 29** Balance of Payments, Australia, July 1994 (5301.0; \$16.50)
- 30** Building Approvals, Australia, July 1994 (8731.0; \$13.50)
- 31** International Investment Position, Australia, June Quarter 1994 (5306.0; \$21.50)

Selected releases: 10 to 16 August

General

Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, August 1994 (1303.6; \$10.00)

Demography

Marriages, Aust., 1993 (3306.0; \$12.50)

Social statistics

Disability, Ageing & Carers, Aust.: Visual Impairment, 1993 (4434.0; \$10.00)
— new issue

National accounts, Finance and Foreign trade

Private New Capital Expenditure, Aust., Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1995, March Qtr 1994 Survey (5626.0; \$11.00) — final issue

Labour statistics and Prices

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, July 1994 (6271.0; \$66.30)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., June 1994 (6312.0; \$13.00)

Industrial Disputes, Aust., May 1994 (6321.0; \$11.00)

Average Retail Prices of Selected Items, Eight Capital Cities, June Qtr 1994 (6403.0; \$6.00)

The Labour Force, Vic., May 1994 (6202.2; \$16.50)

Agriculture

Principal Agricultural Commodities, SA, 1993–94, Preliminary (7111.4; \$11.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service industries, Building and construction

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, April 1994 (8741.1; \$11.00)

Building Approvals, Tas., June 1994 (8731.6; \$11.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., June 1994 (9303.6; \$6.00)

| Key national indicators | Period | Units | Latest figure available | | Percentage change (a) on | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | Original | Seasonally adjusted | Previous period | Corresponding period last year |
| | | | | | | |
| National accounts | | | | | | |
| Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices | March qtr 94 | \$m | 95 551 | 100 244 | 1.9 | 5.0 |
| International accounts | | | | | | |
| Balance on current account (b) | June 94 | \$m | -1 657 | -1 439 | -15 | 4 |
| Balance on merchandise trade (b) | " | " | -3 | -160 | 43 | 19 |
| Balance on goods and services (b) | " | " | -243 | -116 | 70 | 65 |
| Merchandise exports | " | " | 5 223 | 5 372 | +2 | 6 |
| Merchandise imports | " | " | -5 226 | -5 532 | -4 | 5 |
| Net foreign debt | March qtr 94 | \$m | 167 264 | n.a. | -2.1 | 3.0 |
| Net foreign liabilities | " | " | 233 967 | n.a. | -0.8 | 11.0 |
| Consumption and investment | | | | | | |
| Retail turnover at current prices | June 94 | \$m | 8 392 | 8 616 | -0.1 | 5.7 |
| New capital expenditure at current prices | March qtr 94 | " | 5 821 | 6 506 | -4 | 0.0 |
| New motor vehicle registrations | June 94 | no. | 57 950 | 52 133 | 2.2 | 9.3 |
| Production | | | | | | |
| Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices | March qtr 94 | \$m | 35 184 | 37 572 | 2.3 | 9.9 |
| Dwelling unit approvals | June 94 | no. | 17 478 | 16 051 | -4.9 | 14.3 |
| Building approvals | " | \$m | 2 912.5 | 2 741.7 | 31.5 | 36.2 |
| Building work done at 1989-90 prices | March qtr 94 | " | 5 783 | 6 236 | -2.4 | 0.0 |
| Prices | | | | | | |
| Consumer price index | June qtr 94 | 1989-90 = 100.0 | 111.2 | n.a. | 0.7 | 1.7 |
| Articles produced by manufacturing industry | June 94 | 1988-89 = 100.0 | 116.1 | n.a. | 0.3 | 0.7 |
| Materials used in manufacturing industries | May 94 | 1984-85 = 100.0 | 123.2 | n.a. | 1.2 | -1.7 |
| Labour force and demography | | | | | | |
| Employed persons | July 94 | '000 | 7 985.0 | 7 972.2 | 1.1 | 4.0 |
| Participation rate † | " | % | 63.0 | 63.2 | 0.3 | 0.8 |
| Unemployment rate † | " | " | 9.1 | 9.5 | -0.6 | -1.3 |
| Job vacancies | May qtr 93 | '000 | 49.4 | 53.0 | 18.5 | 64.1 |
| Average weekly overtime per employee | " | hours | 1.31 | 1.33 | 7.5 | 11.1 |
| Estimated resident population | December qtr 94 | million | 17.7 | n.a. | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Short-term overseas visitor arrivals | April 94 | '000 | 255 | 271 | -10.6 | 12.1 |
| Incomes | | | | | | |
| Company profits before income tax | March qtr 94 | \$m | 5 150 | 6 545 | 34.1 | 41.7 |
| -Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time | May 94 | \$ | 616.90 | 617.60 | 1.3 | 3.2 |
| Financial markets | | | | | | |
| Interest rates (c) (monthly average) | | | | | | |
| 90-day bank bills † | June 94 | % per annum | 5.45 | n.a. | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| 10-year Treasury bonds † | June 94 | " | 9.65 | n.a. | 0.85 | 2.3 |
| Exchange rate — SUS (c) | June 94 | per \$A | 0.7333 | n.a. | 1 | 9 |

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

| Key State indicators | Period | Percentage change from same period previous year | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|--|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | NSW | Vic. | Qld | SA | WA | Tas. | NT | ACT | Aust. |
| New capital expenditure* | December qtr 93 | -20.0 | 30.3 | -20.4 | -27.3 | 26.8 | -39.5 | n.a. | n.a. | -1.5 |
| Retail turnover (trend estimate) | June 94 | 7.1 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 3.8 | 5.9 | 4.7 | n.a. | 2.4 | 5.8 |
| New motor vehicle registrations† | June 94 | 15.0 | 15.2 | -6.8 | 13.5 | 4.5 | 15.5 | 5.1 | 25.7 | 9.3 |
| Number of dwelling unit approvals† | June 94 | 34.3 | 11.3 | 10.1 | 1.6 | 17.1 | -15.0 | -41.0 | -20.7 | 14.3 |
| Value of total building work done | March qtr 94 | -8.2 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 0.7 | 20.6 | 4.6 | 20.3 | -4.7 | 1.4 |
| Employed persons* | July 94 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.8 | 2.1 | 4.7 | 2.1 | 0.3 | 2.9 | 4.0 |
| Capital city consumer price index | June qtr 94 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 1.7 |
| Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) | February 94 | 4.5 | 1.6 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 1.9 | 4.0 | -0.5 | 4.0 | 3.1 |
| Population | September qtr 93 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 0.5 | 1.3 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. | March qtr 94 | 7.3 | 5.4 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 9.5 | 3.9 | 16.6 | 1.5 | 6.7 |

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 11). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

